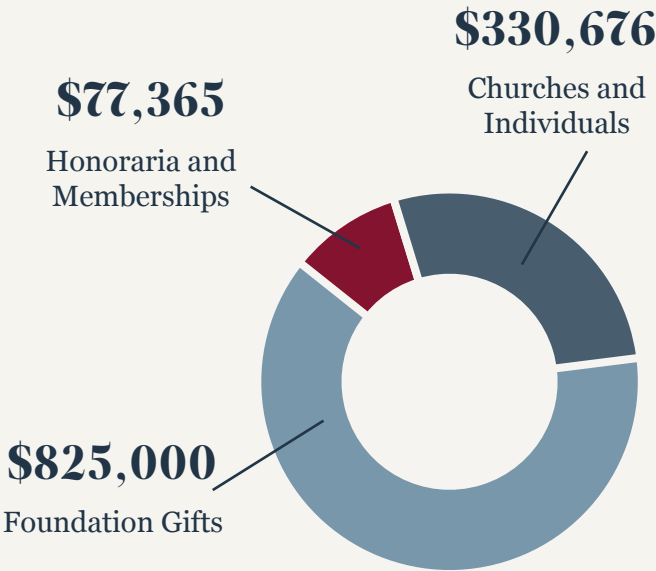




2018 Annual Report

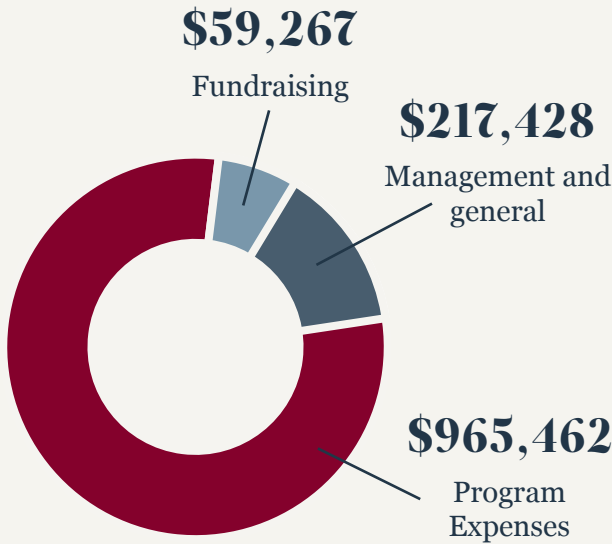
FY18 Stewardship

CPJ is deeply committed to stewarding its gifts with integrity and purpose.



\$1,233,041

Total Revenue and Support



\$1,242,157

Total Expenses

Dear Friend,

It is with great joy that I write to you in CPJ's 42nd year. As my predecessor Jim Skillen reminds us: "The political world is not a closed human territory...human governments always point ahead, in anticipation, to the climactic fulfillment of Christ's governance of the City of God." It is this vision towards which we labor in hope.

CPJ continues to strategically move forward in our work of equipping citizens, developing leaders and educating policymakers, while responding to the current issues of our day. In the past year, I have seen CPJ's impact through rich conversations about Christian and Muslim hospitality, institutional religious freedom and the unique contributions of faith-based organizations. I've been encouraged by meetings CPJ has convened with policymakers and other leaders about healthcare, the social safety net and family-supportive workplaces.

We know that none of CPJ's success is due to our own efforts. Rather, in all that we are and all that we are able to accomplish (you are included in that!), we give thanks and praise to the One who sits on the throne.

Stephanie Summers

Stephanie Summers, CEO
January 2019



Political Discipleship

DAN CARTER, a Michigan-based pastor with experience ministering to 20- and 30-somethings, had long appreciated Millennials' passion for social justice but felt something missing.

"I wanted to help my congregation mobilize in a meaningful way," Dan says. "It's easy to get riled up on social media, but what about taking time to be thoughtful about our civic engagement? How might our faith inform and shape our actions?"

CPJ's Political Discipleship curriculum provided that framework for Dan and 11 members of his church. Dan's group identified affordable housing as the issue they wanted to address and began to research.

"It was already being talked about in our community, so we felt hopeful we could add to the impact by adding a uniquely Christian voice," says Dan.

As Dan's group researched, they learned about zoning laws and ordinances. A married couple in the group began tuning in to locally broadcasted city council meetings.

"Because of Political Discipleship, we were becoming more informed and more engaged," says Dan. "Christians should be the first to admit that we need each other to pursue public justice."

After meeting for two months, Dan's group presented their concerns to the Holland City Council, which resulted in seven minutes of speaking and two pages in the Council's official meeting minutes.

"We built new relationships with key decision makers in our community," says Dan. "We even met with a city manager and a community expert on affordable housing."

For Dan and his group, the importance of local politics was clear.

"We have much easier access to national and global news; it's harder to find out what my city council is debating about than it is Congress," says Dan. "But which one is going to affect my neighbors more? If a group of Christians can tackle a local issue, they just might be able to have a bigger impact in their own city."



A Political Discipleship group in Washington, D.C. prepares a meal together before discussing the curriculum.

40+ *small group participants*

8 *small group leaders*

5 *cities in 2018: Pittsburgh (PA), Holland (MI), Chicago (IL), Princeton (NJ), Washington, D.C.*

This year, the Center for Public Justice launched a praxis-based small group curriculum for Christians to explore loving one's neighbor through politics in a pluralistic society. **POLITICAL DISCIPLESHIP** groups are now working to address local community issues, such as lack of affordable housing, and policies related to transportation access, criminal justice reforms, health care and school discipline. The curriculum is expanding to college campuses and among church and community-based groups.



Prize recipients Emily Miller and Jordan Bellamy present research at the Christians in Political Science Conference.

EMILY MILLER found herself among one of the youngest presenters at the 2018 Christians in Political Science Conference. The experience came her way as one of three recipients of Shared Justice's 2018 Student-Faculty Research Prize.

The Prize gives three student-faculty pairs the opportunity to write extensive policy reports on a social safety net program. Emily, who has since graduated from Wheaton College with a degree in International Relations, conducted her research with faculty advisor Timothy Taylor, assistant professor of International Relations at Wheaton College.

The pair focused their research on refugees' access to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), a nutrition program designed to safeguard women and children's health and prevent malnutrition.

Emily says her experience with the Prize gave her confidence in her own ideas.

"It opened me up to a platform to share my ideas and gave me different ideas for how I can be a writer,

Shared Justice

thinker and communicator," she said.

"She was blown away by how much of a formative experience it was for her," Timothy Taylor says of Emily.

Through the Prize, both Emily and Timothy identified new relationships and interests. Emily was able to foster relationships that ultimately helped pave the way for her to study Arabic, which she hopes to use in her future work with refugees. Timothy learned about World Relief, a global Christian humanitarian organization, and invited the organization to speak to his students about refugees and public policy.

Expressing enthusiasm for the Prize, Timothy says he has grown an appreciation for Shared Justice's tailored approach to fostering advocacy among Christians. "[Shared Justice] is caring, empathetic, and its tone is not angry or conflictual," Timothy says. "I want my students to be engaged and to care. In that regard, I think CPJ is a really helpful model."

SHARED JUSTICE equips Christian college students and young adults to explore the intersection of faith, politics and public justice. This year, SharedJustice.org had 54,000 unique visitors to the website, published 55 articles and added 25 new contributors. Shared Justice launched the inaugural Student-Faculty Research Prize, which was awarded to three students at Christian colleges and universities to conduct research and write a policy report on a social safety net program in their local community.

12 interns and post-grad fellows

50 + articles written by 20- and 30-somethings

3 student-faculty pairs awarded inaugural Student-Faculty Research Prize

Sacred Sector



Sacred Sector Fellow Kerwin Webb

12 seminarians
participated
in the Sacred Sector
Fellowship

40+ churches and
faith-based
nonprofits equipped

SACRED SECTOR is a learning community for diverse faith-based organizations and emerging leaders who seek to integrate their sacred missions in the public square through organizational practices, in public policy engagement and in cultivating positive public positioning. In its inaugural year, Sacred Sector ran two learning communities with support from the Templeton Religion Trust.

KERWIN WEBB was in his second year at Princeton Theological Seminary when he learned about CPJ's Sacred Sector learning community. Having served as a nonprofit and ministry leader for nearly six years, Kerwin wanted to add additional skills to become a more effective leader in his vocational calling.

"I wanted to experience more practical application of leading and working in the church," says Kerwin.

Kerwin applied for, and was accepted to, Sacred Sector's inaugural 2018 Fellowship cohort. The Sacred Sector learning community is designed to equip both seminarians and faith-based organizations to live out their faith-shaped callings.

Kerwin spent the summer in Washington D.C., where he joined 11 other seminarians. After a weeklong learning intensive, he was placed with First Rock Baptist Church, a local congregation based in the predominantly African American—and often underserved—

neighborhood of Anacostia. First Rock served as a host site for the Fellowship program because of the unique ways it impacts the surrounding community, such as through elder care, daycare and afterschool tutoring programs. From there, he assisted First Rock with implementing the "Three P's" framework which includes organizational best practices, public positioning and public policy.

Today, Kerwin is applying his skills to support his home church in Asbury Park, New Jersey. He is utilizing the Sacred Sector Organizational Assessment tool to help his church develop a new strategic plan.

Kerwin says Sacred Sector is helping faith-based organizations remain relevant and cast a vision for organizational success.

"The work of the Church is changing," says Kerwin. "The way we need to impact the community needs to change, too. That's why Sacred Sector is so beneficial – because it's helping shape future leaders in the Church."



Sacred Sector Fellowship 2018 cohort



(L to R): Richard Youngblood, Director, Housing and Urban Development Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives; Andrea Ramirez, Acting Director Dept. of Education Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives; Byron Johnson, Director, Institute for Studies of Religion, Baylor University; John Pughe, Director, Dept. of Commerce Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives; Stanley Carlson-Thies, Founder and Senior Director of the Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance; Curtis Porter, Special Assistant to the Associate Commissioner, Family and Youth Services Bureau, Dept. of Health and Human Services

THE INSTITUTIONAL RELIGIOUS

FREEDOM ALLIANCE promotes public policies, institutional practices and public attitudes that advance religious freedom for faith-based organizations. IRFA interfaces on a multi-faith and nonpartisan basis with each administration and with Congress, to safeguard the religious freedom that faith-based service organizations need so that they can make their distinctive contributions to the common good. This year, IRFA helped launch the Sacred Sector initiative, a learning community for faith-based organizations and seminarians. IRFA also organizes monthly Coalition to Preserve Religious Freedom meetings to coordinate with other faith-based organizations.

CHIP WEIANT, a board member for the Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, has seen faith-based and government partnerships at work in the last three gubernatorial administrations.

With new incoming leadership this year, Chip wanted to make clear the vital role of faith-based organizations in the Buckeye State.

"We wanted to tell the story of this office and how it is uniquely serving the people of Ohio, says Chip "I wanted to show our new governor what we mean by 'faith-friendly' policy."

To do that, Chip knew he needed to bring in the right person. So he invited IRFA Founder and Senior Director Stanley Carlson-Thies to testify before the Ohio Legislature.

"We needed someone with credibility and horsepower to validate the Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives," say Chip. "Stanley was that person."

For more than 20 years, IRFA has had a dual role: equipping community faith-based organizations and educating policymakers and government officials on the value of faith-based institutions.

Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance

"Stanley has a gentle way of providing concise and precise recommendations, which, in particularly divided times, is a salve for government officials," says Chip.

Chip notes the unique contribution of faith-based service providers is more timely than ever.

"We have an opioid crisis, and thousands of Ohioans are in need. We need to coordinate our state and county resources, and we need to restore families," says Chip. "We can do that in coordination with faith-based groups who provide valuable support."

Chip says the future is bright for faith-based organizations and government partnerships.

"[IRFA] brings the wisdom and expertise of faith-based partnerships to the next generation. [Younger generations] understand authentic community, but they don't always have the right tools to create change, says Chip. "IRFA provides much-needed counsel and has a way of speaking so clearly to the next generation of leaders."

Public Justice Review

PUBLIC JUSTICE REVIEW, CPJ's core publication, connects public justice to public policy, equipping citizens to pursue God's purpose for our political community. In its second year, *Public Justice Review* published six series and had over 22,000 readers.



Rondell Treviño with his wife, Laura and their daughter, Sofia

After **RONDELL TREVIÑO** met and married his wife, Laura, God began to reveal to Rondell the brokenness of the U.S. immigration system. During their first two years of marriage, Laura was still living in El Salvador, even though the couple submitted a Form I-130 with the help of Catholic Charities so that Laura could obtain a visa.

Rondell, a pastor and ministry leader, began to understand his own history “as a Mexican in the context of all the devaluing injustices immigrants face in and outside of the United States.”

Today, Rondell runs The Immigration Project in Memphis, Tennessee. Since sharing his story more widely, Rondell was invited to write for a *Public Justice Review* series called “Families, Nations, Immigration: Who Comes First?”

“People want hear from those who have been through the immigration process,” says Rondell of his experience. “I’m thankful CPJ wanted us to share our story.”

Rondell, already a prolific speaker and writer, says the editing process with *Public Justice Review* helped him improve his writing. “I was given a framework to help readers understand my story and show that every aspect of my work with The Immigration Project is about family unity,” says Rondell.

“The goal in writing for *Public Justice Review* was to communicate that, as Christian citizens, we need to engage in policies and advocacy – and that the Church needs to be talking about it. In all we do, we are either advancing or hindering the kingdom of God.”

**-RONDELL TREVIÑO, CONTRIBUTOR
TO PUBLIC JUSTICE REVIEW**

6 series covering issues from immigration to health care and proximate pluralism to Christian political formation

“The goal in writing for *Public Justice Review* is to communicate that, as Christian citizens, we need to engage in policies and advocacy – and that the Church needs to be talking about it. In all we do, we are either advancing or hindering the kingdom of God,” says Rondell.

Rondell says the “balanced approach” of *Public Justice Review* was incredibly helpful in his ministry work, which often requires bridging a partisan divide on issues like immigration.

“The editorial direction I received in writing for *Public Justice Review* ultimately helped reinforce [The Immigration Project’s] mission,” says Rondell. “We have to have compassion and love, but also respect the rule of law. I’m grateful for CPJ’s engagement on this issue through *Public Justice Review*.”

In its second year, the **FAMILIES VALUED** initiative organized a convening of policy experts, advocates, pastors and faith-based employers to discuss what family supportive workplace policies might look like. Families Valued also produced a report on work and caregiving called “Time to Flourish: Protecting Families’ Time for Work and Care” co-authored by Katelyn Beaty, along with a set of family-supportive principles for policymakers. Partnering with the Shared Justice initiative, Families Valued published *Time to Care*, a story series featuring the voices of families experiencing the tension between work and care.



Heather Thornburg, Program Director and Stephanie Clark, Executive Director of Amirah, a faith-based nonprofit

STEPHANIE CLARK is the executive director of Amirah, a faith-based nonprofit that provides aftercare services for sex trafficked women through a safe home, outreach groups and partnership trainings. Her team includes clinical mental health professionals, full-time and part-time staff and volunteers. Her staff, Stephanie says, is passionate about serving women in trauma. But Stephanie also knew that this kind of compassion work can take a toll.

Then Stephanie attended a special convening hosted by Families Valued. The event brought together employers, human resources professionals, parents and pastors to consider how Christians ought to think about work and caregiving.

“I was moved when I heard from panelists who were also pastors,” says Stephanie. “I was encouraged to hear a conversation about how families should be a priority.”

A former pastor herself, Stephanie was reminded that she, too, had worked more than she should have. “We need to take care of ourselves and our families,” says Stephanie. “That’s the only way we are able to do what God wants us to do. At the

Families Valued

convening, it just became crystal clear.”

Five days after the convening, Stephanie drafted an official policy on rest and sabbath. “My staff came to me in tears saying, ‘I needed to hear that,’” says Stephanie.

Since instituting the new policy, Amirah’s staff have encouraged the women they serve, regardless of faith background, to consider taking a day of rest – particularly as many of them work to secure hourly wage jobs.

“We want to help these women understand what rest looks like and see why they need it,” says Stephanie. “We may practice Sabbath in a broken world, but I want to support our staff and clients in that regardless.”

26 *in-depth interviews conducted with employers about family supportive practices*

40+ *leaders convened to discuss family-supportive principles*

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☐ Please keep my gift anonymous

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